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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/739,317	THOMPSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Qamrun Nahar	2191	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 12/21/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14, 16, 18 and 20, renumbered 1-17.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/589,200.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>2008.05.11</u> 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
|---|---|

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the amendment filed on 12/21/2007.
2. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over S. Jablonski, "On the Complementarity of Workflow Management and Business Process Modeling", 1995 (hereinafter "Jablonski") in view of Schmidt, et al. "Extending Aspect-Oriented Programming in order to Flexibly Support Workflows", 1998 (hereinafter "Schmidt") to claims 1-20 is withdrawn in view of applicant's amendment and Examiner's Amendment below.
3. Claims 1-10 and 12-20 have been amended.
4. Claims 1, 12-13, 16, 18 and 20 have been amended (See Examiner's Amendment below).
5. Claims 15, 17 and 19 have been canceled (See Examiner's Amendment below).
6. Claims 1-14, 16, 18 and 20 are pending.
7. Claims 1-14, 16, 18 and 20 are allowed, renumbered 1-17.

Drawings

8. The drawings were received on 12/19/2000. These drawings are acceptable.

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

9. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Raymond Y. Mah (Reg. No. 41,426) on January 30, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of generating a process plan comprising:
 - i) storing at least one generic process pattern, wherein the at least one generic process pattern defines a core process that must be executed in order to achieve a type of goal, wherein the core process is a partially ordered process which includes process steps, which are obligatory to achieve the type of goal;
 - ii) storing at least one process aspect containing a predetermined pattern, wherein the at least one process aspect defines at least one context dependent process step that is carried out in order to achieve a particular goal;
 - iii) searching said at least one generic process pattern for the predetermined pattern contained by the at least one process aspect,
 - iv) on detection of the predetermined pattern, inserting content from said at least one process aspect into the generic process pattern to generate a process plan, and
 - v) outputting the generated process plan,

wherein instructions for the insertion of said content in said step of inserting content are coded into said at least one process aspect and said content inserted

from said at least one process aspect introduces a new process step into the generic process pattern.

2. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of receiving for storage the at least one generic process pattern and receiving for storage the at least one process aspect.

3. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein each stored generic process pattern is indexed in accordance with a goal to be achieved by the plan and the method further comprises:

- vi) receiving a goal input, and
- vii) selecting a generic process pattern for searching, said selection being in accordance with the received goal input.

4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the at least one process aspect comprises resource information, identifying one or more resources to support a process step in a generated process plan.

5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 4 wherein each stored process aspect comprising resource information is indexed in accordance with one or more relevant resources.

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein content of at least one inserted process aspect comprises data.

7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the at least one process aspect comprises context specific method steps or data and is indexed for storage according to a relevant context.

8. (previously presented) A method according to claim 7 wherein the context for the at least one process aspect is service type.

9. (previously presented) A method according to claim 7 wherein the context for the at least one process aspect is customer type.

10. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 which comprises selecting an item of content from two or more alternative items of content, said two or more alternative items of content being identified from said coded instructions provided by said at least one process aspect, and inserting the selected content into the generic process pattern in generating a process plan.

11. (original) A method according to claim 10 wherein the selection is domain specific.

12. (currently amended) An apparatus for use in generating a process plan, the apparatus comprising:

- i) a generic process pattern ~~store-storage device~~ that stores at least one generic process pattern, wherein the at least one generic process pattern defines a core process that must be executed in order to achieve a type of goal wherein the core process is a partially ordered process which includes process steps, which are obligatory to achieve the type of goal,
 - ii) a process aspect ~~store-storage device~~ that stores at least one process aspect containing a predetermined pattern, wherein the at least one process aspect defines at least one context dependent process step that is carried out in order to achieve a particular goal,
 - iii) means for searching the at least one generic process pattern for the at least one predetermined pattern contained in the process aspect,
 - iv) means for inserting content from said at least one process aspect into the at least one generic process pattern on detection of the predetermined pattern so as to generate a process plan, and
 - v) an output for generated process plans,
- wherein instructions for the insertion of said content are coded into said at least one process aspect and said content inserted from said at least one process aspect introduces a new process step into the generic process pattern.

13. (currently amended) An apparatus for use in generating a process plan, the apparatus comprising:

i) a generic process pattern ~~store-storage device~~ that stores at least one generic process pattern, wherein the at least one generic process pattern defines a core process that must be executed in order to achieve a type of goal, wherein the core process is a partially ordered process which includes process steps, which are obligatory to achieve the type of goal.

ii) a process aspect ~~store-storage device~~ that stores at least one process aspect containing a predetermined pattern, wherein the at least one process aspect defines at least one context dependent process step that is carried out in order to achieve a particular goal.

iii) search means for searching the at least one generic process pattern for the at least one predetermined pattern contained in the process aspect,

iv) selection means for selecting at least one item of content from a set of two or more alternative items of content,

v) insertion means for inserting the selected item(s) of content on detection of the at least one predetermined pattern so as to progress towards generating a process plan, and

vi) an output for generated process plans,

wherein instructions for the insertion of said content are coded into said at least one process aspect, and said instructions identify the set of two or more alternative items of content and said content inserted from said at least one process aspect introduces a new process step into the generic process pattern.

14. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said selection means is adapted to select the at least one item of content with respect to a domain of operation for a generated process pattern.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A method of generating a process plan comprising:

- i) storing at least one generic process pattern, wherein the at least one generic process pattern defines a core process that must be executed in order to achieve a type of goal, wherein the core process is a partially ordered process which includes process steps, which are obligatory to achieve the type of goal;
- ii) storing at least one process aspect containing a predetermined pattern, wherein the at least one process aspect defines at least one context dependent process step that is carried out in order to achieve a particular goal;
- iii) searching said at least one generic process pattern for the predetermined pattern contained by the at least one process aspect;
- iv) on detection of the predetermined pattern, inserting content from said at least one process aspect into the generic process pattern to generate a process plan, and

v) outputting the generated process plan.

wherein instructions for the insertion of said content in said step of inserting content are coded into said at least one process aspect, and~~A method as in claim 1,~~
~~wherein~~ said content inserted from said at least one process aspect advises an existing step of the generic process pattern.

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) An apparatus for use in generating a process plan.
the apparatus comprising:

- i) a generic process pattern storage device that stores at least one generic process pattern, wherein the at least one generic process pattern defines a core process that must be executed in order to achieve a type of goal wherein the core process is a partially ordered process which includes process steps, which are obligatory to achieve the type of goal.
- ii) a process aspect storage device that stores at least one process aspect containing a predetermined pattern, wherein the at least one process aspect defines at least one context dependent process step that is carried out in order to achieve a particular goal.
- iii) means for searching the at least one generic process pattern for the at least one predetermined pattern contained in the process aspect.

iv) means for inserting content from said at least one process aspect into the at least one generic process pattern on detection of the predetermined pattern so as to generate a process plan, and

v) an output for generated process plans,

wherein instructions for the insertion of said content are coded into said at least one process aspect. ~~An apparatus as in claim 12, wherein and~~ said content inserted from said at least one process aspect advises an existing step of the generic process pattern.

19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) An apparatus for use in generating a process plan, the apparatus comprising:

i) a generic process pattern storage device that stores at least one generic process pattern, wherein the at least one generic process pattern defines a core process that must be executed in order to achieve a type of goal, wherein the core process is a partially ordered process which includes process steps, which are obligatory to achieve the type of goal,

ii) a process aspect storage device that stores at least one process aspect containing a predetermined pattern, wherein the at least one process aspect defines at least one context dependent process step that is carried out in order to achieve a particular goal,

iii) search means for searching the at least one generic process pattern for the at least one predetermined pattern contained in the process aspect,

- iv) selection means for selecting at least one item of content from a set of two or more alternative items of content.
- v) insertion means for inserting the selected item(s) of content on detection of the at least one predetermined pattern so as to progress towards generating a process plan, and
- vi) an output for generated process plans.

wherein instructions for the insertion of said content are coded into said at least one process aspect, and said instructions identify the set of two or more alternative items of content. ~~An apparatus as in claim 13, wherein and~~ said content inserted from said at least one process aspect advises an existing step of the generic process pattern.

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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

10. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The cited prior art taken alone or in combination fail to teach, in combination with the other claimed limitations, iii) searching said at least one generic process pattern for the predetermined pattern contained by the at least one process aspect, iv) on detection of the predetermined pattern, inserting content from said at least one process aspect into the generic process pattern to generate a process plan, and v) outputting the generated process plan, wherein instructions for the insertion of said content in said step of inserting content are coded into said at least one process aspect and said content inserted from said at least one process aspect introduces a new process step into the generic process pattern as substantially recited in independent claims 1 and 12; further fail to teach iii) search means for searching the at least one generic process pattern for the at least one predetermined pattern contained in the process aspect, iv) selection means for selecting at least one item of content from a set of two or more alternative items of content, v) insertion means for inserting the selected item(s) of content on detection of the at least one predetermined pattern so as to progress towards generating a process plan, and vi) an output for generated process plans, wherein instructions for the insertion of said content are coded into said at least one process aspect, and said instructions identify the set of two or more alternative items of content and said content inserted from said at least one process aspect introduces a new process step into the generic process pattern as substantially recited in independent claim 13; further fail to teach iii) searching said at least one generic process pattern for the predetermined pattern contained by the at least one process aspect, iv) on detection of the

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predetermined pattern, inserting content from said at least one process aspect into the generic process pattern to generate a process plan, and v) outputting the generated process plan, wherein instructions for the insertion of said content in said step of inserting content are coded into said at least one process aspect, and said content inserted from said at least one process aspect advises an existing step of the generic process pattern as substantially recited in independent claims 16 and 18; and further fail to teach iii) search means for searching the at least one generic process pattern for the at least one predetermined pattern contained in the process aspect, iv) selection means for selecting at least one item of content from a set of two or more alternative items of content, v) insertion means for inserting the selected item(s) of content on detection of the at least one predetermined pattern so as to progress towards generating a process plan, and vi) an output for generated process plans, wherein instructions for the insertion of said content are coded into said at least one process aspect, and said instructions identify the set of two or more alternative items of content and said content inserted from said at least one process aspect advises an existing step of the generic process pattern as substantially recited in independent claim 20.

The closest cited prior arts, the combination of Jablonski and Schmidt teaches a method of generating a process plan. However, the combination of Jablonski and Schmidt fails to teach iii) searching said at least one generic process pattern for the predetermined pattern contained by the at least one process aspect, iv) on detection of the predetermined pattern, inserting content from said at least one process aspect into the generic process pattern to generate a process plan, and v) outputting the generated process plan, wherein instructions for the insertion of said content in said step of inserting content are coded into said at least one process aspect and said

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content inserted from said at least one process aspect introduces a new process step into the generic process pattern as substantially recited in independent claims 1 and 12; further fail to teach iii) search means for searching the at least one generic process pattern for the at least one predetermined pattern contained in the process aspect, iv) selection means for selecting at least one item of content from a set of two or more alternative items of content, v) insertion means for inserting the selected item(s) of content on detection of the at least one predetermined pattern so as to progress towards generating a process plan, and vi) an output for generated process plans, wherein instructions for the insertion of said content are coded into said at least one process aspect, and said instructions identify the set of two or more alternative items of content and said content inserted from said at least one process aspect introduces a new process step into the generic process pattern as substantially recited in independent claim 13; further fail to teach iii) searching said at least one generic process pattern for the predetermined pattern contained by the at least one process aspect, iv) on detection of the predetermined pattern, inserting content from said at least one process aspect into the generic process pattern to generate a process plan, and v) outputting the generated process plan, wherein instructions for the insertion of said content in said step of inserting content are coded into said at least one process aspect, and said content inserted from said at least one process aspect advises an existing step of the generic process pattern as substantially recited in independent claims 16 and 18; and further fail to teach iii) search means for searching the at least one generic process pattern for the at least one predetermined pattern contained in the process aspect, iv) selection means for selecting at least one item of content from a set of two or more alternative items of content, v) insertion means for inserting the selected item(s) of content on detection of the at least one predetermined pattern so

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as to progress towards generating a process plan, and vi) an output for generated process plans, wherein instructions for the insertion of said content are coded into said at least one process aspect, and said instructions identify the set of two or more alternative items of content and said content inserted from said at least one process aspect advises an existing step of the generic process pattern as substantially recited in independent claim 20; and as pointed out by the applicant's remarks/arguments on pg. 8, par. 4 to pg. 9, par. 4.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Qamrun Nahar whose telephone number is (571) 272-3730. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wei Y Zhen, can be reached on (571) 272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or processing is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

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may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Qamrun Nahar

January 30, 2008

WY ✓
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